

National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

Public Hearings

Atqasuk

1998

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NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE - ALASKA

ATOASUK HEARING

Atqasuk Community Hall
January 12, 1998, 7:30 p.m.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Benjamin Nageak, North Slope Mayor

09

Mr. Bartz Englishoe

14

Mr. Arnold Brower, Jr.

17/22

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Atqasuk - 1/12/98)

3 (On record - 7:30 p.m.)

4 MAYOR KIGNAK: We have a lot of visitors here in
5 Atqasuk this evening. This is the first of the public hearings
6 NPR-A. I just want to welcome you all here to the community
7 center where we all meet and, of course, have our Bingo. I
8 just got word this past 10 days ago that we got the permit
9 today and maybe we'll have Bingo tomorrow, so come back for it.
10

11 Well, at this time I'd like to introduce people I know.
12 Nelson Ahvakana, he's with ASNA out of Fairbanks office. And
13 Dee Ritchie, and I think that I'll give it to him. Dee.

14 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you, Mayor. It's nice to be back
15 with you again tonight. And we're here

16 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: Don't forget to introduce Ben.....

17 MR. RITCHIE: Well, I thought the Mayor would introduce
18 the Honorable Mayor. But it's always good to come to the
19 villages, Mayor, and we're glad to be here with you, especially
20 tonight, so thank you. And I suppose that Nelson will call on
21 him to make some -- in this, but thanks for being here. And,
22 Arnold, I thought that the Mayor would also introduce you.
23 We're glad to -- this is Arnold Brower, Jr., most of you don't
24 know him, but.....

25 MAYOR KIGNAK: Like you've been working with him for

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1 several years only.

2 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you. And we'll claim Arnold too --
3 also. It's good to be here and I'd like to introduce the staff
4 that's here with us. Sally Wisely is the Associate State
5 Director for BLM of Alaska, glad to have her here. Dave Yokel
6 from my staff also on the planning team from Fairbanks. Mike
7 Kunz in the back corner is on the planning team from Fairbanks.
8 Anne Morkill from our staff in Fairbanks. Anne does a lot of
9 work on putting these meetings together and calling Mayor
10 Herman and others to make sure -- and Arnold to make sure it
11 all goes. And Sharon Wilson. Sharon is Public Affairs Chief
12 in Fairbanks. Is there anybody I -- Dick Roberts. Dick is
13 with MMS, coordinator with BLM in preparing this document.
14 We're glad to have Dick with us.

15 With that, I think that's the staff we brought along
16 this meeting. Nelson will talk to us a little bit about that,
17 I hope, on why were here, but we're here primarily to listen
18 and take comments tonight. It'll be a formal hearing but we --
19 whatever you'd like to do with this meeting we'll accommodate,
20 at least until 11:00 o'clock or so.

21 Arnold, do you want to say anything or Sally?

22 MAYOR KIGNAK: Before we start, it is our custom in our
23 community that we have invocations for the meeting, so after
24 the introduction are through, I'm sure it would be proper for
25 Kate Aiken, our elder to give a invocation.

1 (Invocation in Inupiaq)

2 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)

3 I would like to call the hearing to order. It is now
4 after 7:00 o'clock, the appointed time to start this hearing
5 and I would like to start on time. I believe that we did that.
6 If you desire to speak and you have not yet signed up to speak,
7 please do so at the Speakers List. And these are the list
8 pamphlets that we use for people that want to speak.

9 As you very well know, I was introduced as Nelson
10 Ahvakana and I will be conducting this hearing and providing
11 Inupiaq-English translations. Here with me is Joe?

12 REPORTER: Joe Kolasinski

13 MR. AHVAKANA: Joe who is the court reporter who will
14 record all comments during this time.

15 The purpose of the hearing is to formally receive
16 comments on the Bureau of Land Management's Draft Integrated
17 Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Northeast
18 Portion of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska and the
19 ANILCA Section 810, (Subsistence) Evaluation and Finding. This
20 hearing is being held pursuant to the National Environmental
21 Policy Act, or NEPA, and the Alaska National Interest Lands
22 Conservation Act, or ANILCA. It satisfies NEPA's requirement
23 that BLM take public comments on major federal actions and
24 ANILCA's requirement that we conduct hearings on possible
25 actions which may impact subsistence resources or activities

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1 Your comments tonight will serve several purposes.
2 Your comments on the ANILCA Section 810 subsistence evaluation
3 can tell us whether we have correctly identified and assessed
4 the effects of the various alternatives in the Draft EIS on
5 subsistence uses and needs and whether or not other lands are
6 available for the management schemes proposed and you can
7 suggest other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate
8 effects on public lands needed for subsistence purposes. You
9 can also tell us if the proposed findings in the Draft EIS are
10 current (sic) and whether we have left anything out of our
11 subsistence evaluation.

12 Now, you can point out information about the resources
13 or uses of the planning area which our draft document may have
14 overlooked and not analyzed correctly; we want to be sure to
15 have all the relevant information before we make a decision.
16 Also, you can provide us a sense of what the public wants to
17 occur on these lands. Decision-makers want to know where the
18 public stands on the issues involved in the future management
19 of this part of NPR-A, Alaska.

20 The Draft EIS was placed on the Internet on November
21 24th and paper copies were released to the public the first
22 week of December. Several public information meetings were
23 held in Alaska during December to answer questions about the
24 document and to promote dissemination of the Draft EIS.

25 This hearing is one of a series being conducted in the

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1 Alaskan communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow,
2 Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Anchorage and Fairbanks. Hearings in
3 Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California are also being
4 held to ensure a full opportunity for the public to
5 participate.

6 In addition to these hearings, comments on the Draft
7 EIS have been accepted by the Bureau since December 12th, 1997,
8 the start of the official comment period and will continue to
9 be accepted if postmarked by February 10th, 1998. Comments may
10 be provided orally at these hearings, or in writing via the
11 Internet, by facsimile or by regular mail. Informational
12 materials with phone numbers and addresses, including the
13 Internet address, as well as blank forms for comments are
14 provided on the table at the back of the hearing. These are
15 the blank forms that I just mentioned.

16 All comments provided will be compiled, analyzed and
17 considered by the Bureau in preparing the Final Environmental
18 Impact Statement, due to be released in late June 1998.

19 The way we will proceed is I will call the names of
20 those who have indicated they wish to make oral comments up to
21 the microphone. You will then state your name, state which
22 organization you represent, if any, and then give your
23 comments. If you have written comments, I will ask you to
24 provide them to the court reporter.

25 North Slope communities only, there is no set time

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1 limit on comments, but I would ask you to say on the subject of
2 this Draft EIS. For non-North Slope locations, I see by the
3 Speakers List there may be none or maybe one -- yeah, there's
4 only one person who wishes to speak. Based on that and on our
5 time limit, because I'm very, very interested to going back to
6 Barrow as early as possible, I will ask each person or each
7 speaker to confine him or herself to five, 10 and no more than
8 15 minutes. If you reach the time limit, I will ask you to
9 summarize comments and then request you to step down to let
10 others speak. This is the law that is written. And when we
11 complete the list of people wishing to speak, and if time
12 allows, I may offer others the opportunity to speak.

13 I shouldn't include myself, but I will. I and the BLM
14 personnel here today are here to listen. We are not here to
15 answer questions so please don't ask any questions.

16 I would request that the audience be considerate of the
17 speaker and give him or her the courtesy of your attention.

18 We will begin now with the first person from the
19 Speakers List. The speakers then follow one after another from
20 the Speakers List, and presently I've got only two.

21 I would like to thank you all for coming and would
22 encourage you to supplement your oral comments with written
23 comments to the addresses on the information sheets on the
24 table in the rear.

25 Does anybody have any questions?

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1 MAYOR NAGEAK: You said no questions.

2 MR. AHVAKANA: No questions, I'm sorry. Thank you for
3 correcting me. I didn't feel that I was going to be here alone
4 but those people that are sitting around the back with smiles
5 about that thick. For your information I would like to, first
6 of all, call on Honorable Mayor Ben Nageak from the North Slope
7 Borough. Ben.

8 MAYOR NAGEAK: Thank you, (Inupiaq).

9 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq).

10 MAYOR NAGEAK: Good evening. I'm going to state my --
11 I want to make my statements in English and then summarize in
12 Inupiaq for those listeners who don't understand the English
13 language well.

14 Good evening, I'm Ben Nageak, Mayor of the North Slope
15 Borough. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Draft
16 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska Integrated
17 Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. I want to make
18 special note of the fact that the Borough also appreciated the
19 opportunity to participate in a supporting role in the
20 preparation of this document. I look forward to continued
21 close consultation as a final version is produced and
22 management decisions are made by the Secretary and other
23 officials of the Department of Interior. I also want to take a
24 moment to thank the State of Alaska for taking the time and
25 effort to work with the North Slope Borough on this issue.

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1 Their cooperative attitude has been critical to this process.
2 I think the state has shown that it can work with local
3 government on projects such as this and produce a better
4 product because of this cooperation.

5 We're here tonight to talk about the future of a 4.6
6 million acre study area in the northeast corner of the NPR-A.
7 It has been clear since the announcement of this planning
8 process by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt that the
9 primary focus and most anticipated outcome of the environmental
10 review would be decisions involving oil and gas leasing. There
11 can be no doubt that it is Borough residents who will be most
12 directly affected by any decision to allow a new round of oil
13 industry activity in the NPR-A.

14 The northeast planning area has been used by the
15 Inupiat people for centuries and continues to be of great
16 importance today. It contains habitat unique on the North
17 Slope and exceptional seasonal concentrations of wildlife
18 resources. Many of these resources include vast numbers of
19 waterfowl and the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd, migrate to and
20 from the planning area, and are harvested by our residents
21 there. Residents from other North Slope villages also hunt
22 from the abundant Teshekpuk herd.

23 In terms of numbers of caribou harvested for
24 subsistence, the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd is the most
25 important herd on the North Slope today. Scores of traditional

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1 subsistence camps and harvest areas can be found throughout the
2 region. Many significant Inupiat cultural and historical sites
3 dot the landscape.

4 The ability of the Borough to provide the most basic
5 services to its residents is tied largely to revenues generated
6 by taxes on land-based oil industry facilities. That
7 historical support for onshore versus offshore oil and gas
8 operations has always been tempered by a specific need, the
9 need for these activities to be conducted in a manner which
10 does not significantly interfere with the subsistence lifestyle
11 of our residents. With vigorous Borough oversight through our
12 Land Management Program, we have seen successful, ongoing
13 onshore oil and gas operations on state lands to the east of
14 the Colville River. This activity coexists with healthy fish
15 and game populations and subsistence activities. Only with
16 proper oversight and attentiveness to the overall impacts of
17 multiple operations can these successes be repeated on adjacent
18 federal NPR-A lands to the west.

19 The Borough has already formally expressed its strong
20 concerns over the future management of the Northeast NPR-A in
21 two documents prepared in connection with their planning
22 process. The scoping Comments and Recommendations of the North
23 Slope Borough were submitted on April 18, 1997. The Inupiat
24 People's History and Future with Regard to the National
25 Petroleum Reserve - Alaska is a 1997 perspective of the new

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1 issues identified during review of the Draft EIS. The key
2 issues which we identified in those documents will remain the
3 focus of the Borough's formal written comments to be submitted
4 by the February 10th deadline.

5 Briefly, these key issues include the following: One,
6 protection of the region's subsistence resources and
7 environment. Two, identification of sensitive resources and
8 habitats which require some form of protection from the
9 potential impacts of oil and gas operations. Three,
10 recognition, respect, and appropriate protection for all
11 traditional uses in and near the planning area, including
12 subsistence activities, Native allotments, cabins, campsites,
13 historical and cultural sites, access routes, and other uses.
14 Four, support for the efforts of North Slope regional and
15 village ANCSA corporations to receive their land entitlements
16 and secure lands for the protection of subsistence and other
17 activities. Five, identification of a mechanism for
18 recognizing and mitigating the potential cumulative impacts of
19 multiple industrial operations within and outside of the
20 planning area. Six, assurance of appropriate impact aid,
21 employment and economic opportunities for our affected
22 communities. Seven, the maximizing of local control over
23 wildlife and subsistence management through co-management and
24 other mechanisms. Eight, recognition of the applicability of
25 the North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program to lease

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1 activities within the planning area. Nine, deferral of
2 Teshekpuk Lake from leasing until additional analysis of the
3 effects that drilling beneath the lake might have on the area's
4 hydrology. Ten, clean-up of identified hazardous materials
5 sites with and adjacent to the planning area, including that at
6 Umiat.

7 In closing, I think it's important for North Slope
8 residents to understand that the Borough will not simply choose
9 and support one of the five oil and gas leasing alternatives
10 presented in the draft document when we make our final
11 comments. Instead, we are in the process of identifying a
12 North Slope Borough preferred alternative that defines just how
13 we would like to see the planning area managed in the coming
14 years.

15 We are eager to hear what the other North Slope
16 entities and the public have to say on this extremely important
17 subject. When the time comes for a final decision on oil and
18 gas leasing in the NPR-A, we challenge the Secretary of the
19 Interior to live up to the sentiment he expressed when he
20 visited the areas last summer. Secretary Babbitt said that the
21 Clinton Administration "would not perpetuate 500 years of
22 separating the people from the land." We heard him clearly.
23 We want to help him achieve that promise to use. I can only
24 hope that you hear us as clearly as we heard him.

25 If I may, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Officer, if I

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1 summarize.....

2 MR. AHVAKANA: If you do that, I told you exactly what
3 I'm going to do to you.

4 MAYOR NAGEAK: Yes, sir.

5 MR. AHVAKANA: Kick you out.

6 MAYOR NAGEAK: Yes, sir. See, I can call him, sir,
7 he's my cousin. (Inupiaq).

8 And thank you, and here are the comments from the
9 office of the Mayor.

10 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I've got one more
11 here. And Mr. Bartz Englishoe. Is that the way you pronounce
12 this name?

13 MR. ENGLISHOE: Yeah.

14 MR. AHVAKANA: I'm sorry if I mispronounce it, but I
15 happened to be Inupiat not Englishman or whatever you call
16 that. I'm sorry.

17 MR. ENGLISHOE: Athabaskan. Well, I need to apologize,
18 I've been working on this speech and it's 40 minutes. No, it's
19 just a few comments.

20 I work with the Atqasuk Corporation and I've reviewed
21 the EIS statement and quite a few of the comments the
22 corporation submitted weren't covered or covered very lightly.
23 One of the important issues is local hire. And we were hoping
24 the Department of Interior would be a little creative, try to
25 take steps to ensure that local residents, or specifically

1 Native people had a priority in receiving work. There's really
2 nothing in the EIS about that. We were hoping that BLM would
3 send a message to oil companies and subcontractors that said,
4 "look, if you want to our oil in NPR-A you're going to have to
5 bend over backwards to hire Native people." And just not a
6 handshake, but maybe legislation that says a certain percent of
7 local residents will be hired, there'll be training. None of
8 that was in there.

9 I would also like to see maybe some of the royalties
10 that BLM are going to get specifically tailored toward that.
11 They can take five percent of the royalties and put it back
12 into forcing job training, of local hire, social-economic
13 studies, various things like this.

14 We didn't think there was enough on co-management of
15 fish and wildlife. If you want to protect them, the Borough
16 expertise is excellent and would definitely like to see co-
17 management agreements.

18 Also would like to see strong language where
19 individuals don't have to negotiate with oil companies to hook
20 into an oil field that's next to their village is there is one.
21 We'd like to see federal legislation that says, absolutely if
22 there's a gas field found close to this village, they're going
23 to get hooked into that. And hopefully free. This free gas to
24 a village would make tremendous economic -- provide tremendous
25 economic benefit to the village. At \$4.00 a gallon for diesel

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1 up here it's expensive. We think the federal government can be
2 very creative.

3 And let it be known if oil companies want to come into
4 NPR-A they're going to have to do this and that, there hasn't
5 been any of that in the EIS statement. Maybe we have to go to
6 Washington, D.C., and work with our congressman and state
7 legislators but we'd like to see the local office of BLM here
8 take the lead in that. Put it in the EIS so it can be debated.

9 And my final comments is, I'd like to find a place to
10 read all the other comments that people have submitted and will
11 submit, and I'd like to see those on the Internet. There's a
12 lot of, probably, ideas that will spark interest or can be
13 further discussed and people can get behind.

14 And one more issue. If oil is found, let's say, three
15 miles from Atqasuk lands and there's oil rigs there, pipelines,
16 there doesn't seem to be anything that says how the corporation
17 is going to benefit as a land owner. They're taking oil away
18 from underneath the corporation's lands, although the
19 corporation doesn't own subsurface, there should be some effort
20 to guarantee that the village lands, which are going to be
21 disturbed by oil development get a major boost in either
22 subsurface royalties, close proximity royalties, rentals,
23 various things like this. If oil companies aren't going to
24 bend over backwards to put any money in the village unless they
25 have to, BLM can ensure that, and they can be real creative.

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1 We've got a President that I think would support efforts like
2 this and Secretary Babbitt. I think if the local staff here
3 started pushing some of these ideas he might get on the band
4 wagon, but nothing is going to happen unless BLM shows local
5 support and polices some of these issues.

6 Thanks.

7 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you. For the benefit of those who
8 cannot understand English, I will summarize the statement and
9 the comments that Mr. Englishoe has made. (Inupiaq)

10 For the purpose of what I said earlier, I wanted to
11 extend the invitation to the residents of Atqasuk, if you want
12 to go ahead and talk without filling this paper, you can do so,
13 but you have to be a resident of this village.

14 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: (Inupiaq) For the record, that
15 I'm just recapping some of the things that we discussed in the
16 initial hearing, that workshop that we had here. What we were
17 going to face, what is now written in the document in the
18 special area designations and recreation use sites, wild and
19 scenic rivers and implications of those things. Although that
20 we opposed that, but that language and things are still written
21 in the document with the appearance that there might be.

22 As the Mayor said, and we have stated before, that we
23 didn't want these things. This is how far this has escalated
24 and those alternative plans that were there, and with the first
25 alternative, having no drilling at -- or no leasing or drilling

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1 activity. Making the appearance of the village corporation
2 lands, can do what they want and all the other lands around it
3 are not suitable for development making it looks like the dirty
4 guys are in these selection rights. I think that there needs
5 to be an open dialogue rather than making a (indiscernible -
6 lowers voice).

7 (Inupiaq)

8 MR. AHVAKANA: Yeah, thank you, Arnold.

9 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: (Inupiaq)

10 MR. KAGAK: (Inupiaq)

11 MR. AHVAKANA: The question that Luke here has made is
12 those people that have Native allotments in the area of the
13 proposed NPR-A, Alaska, has there been any discussion on how
14 these are going to be treated? I know you're not supposed to
15 have any question and answer period but I think is a legitimate
16 question that has to be raised. Dee.

17 MR. RITCHIE: You want me to come up to the.....

18 REPORTER: So I can hear you, please.

19 MR. RITCHIE: I don't need you to hear me, I need him
20 to hear me.

21 REPORTER: Okay.

22 MR. RITCHIE: The Native allotments will be treated as
23 soon as we can get them surveyed and conveyed, they'll be
24 conveyed to each individual or family that has the application
25 in on them. Then those Native allotments would be treated as a

1 private ground and you would deal with those, as I understand
2 it.

3 MR. KAGAK: What about the people that has a question
4 in their mind, like if I'm 65 and I had a question from some
5 time ago that this man had an allotment, can you prove that he
6 has allotment there?

7 MR. RITCHIE: I don't know if I can prove it or not,
8 but Native allotments that have applications on them presently
9 would be all cleared, set up and conveyed. That's one of the
10 first priorities. And I don't know, the questionable ones will
11 have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. And I don't
12 know of any of those -- many of those.

13 Did that help?

14 MR. KAGAK: Excuse me. (Inupiaq)

15 MR. AHVAKANA: That question that Mr. Kagak had raised
16 is that his concern about those people that have before stated
17 about if they have any questions about their own Native
18 allotments. I'm sure that various people in this village, some
19 have allotments and others don't. And that problem that he
20 raised, there are certain allotments that we as Arctic Slope
21 Native Association are caring for and we're working on those
22 allotments. We're working with BLM on those. The two ladies
23 that work on these things are Diane Stevenson and Kathleen
24 Dickenson. And I interpret for them.

25 Now, there are also allotments that the responsibility

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1 is with Native Village of Barrow and those allottees that are
2 under the auspices of Native Village of Barrow have to go
3 through Native Village of Barrow. We cannot deal with those
4 allotments. We deal only the allotments that were addressed
5 from the village to Arctic Slope Native Association. And as
6 far as the allotments that have questions, according to
7 Mr. Ritchie, it's true that these have to be dealt with
8 case-by-case, it cannot be formulated together like this and
9 work them as a unit, it has to be case-by-case.

10 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you, Nelson.

11 MR. KAGAK: What if it pass on from the uncle to the
12 nieces and nephews, is it still going to go?

13 MR. RITCHIE: They're still -- if they.....

14 MR. AHVAKANA: Yeah, those allotments that work
15 with.....

16 MR. KAGAK: If the uncle or the aunt has passed away,
17 those allotments?

18 MR. AHVAKANA: Yeah, those allotments that belong to
19 the deceased have to -- are still being under -- they have to
20 go through probate, and yet we're still working on those
21 allotments, they're still allotments that the two ladies are
22 working within ASNA. BLM cannot withdraw those allotments,
23 they have to go through with them and then the heirs will take
24 over. But if the heirs are given, then the allotment will be
25 owned by so many heirs, it depends on -- it's just a

1 percentage. Everybody will own that and if something needs to
2 happen, all the heirs will have to be in accordance with that,
3 in agreement, to do anything, so that is still in the process.

4 (Inupiaq)

5 MR. KAGAK: (Inupiaq)

6 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)

7 MR. KAGAK: (Inupiaq)

8 MR. AHVAKANA: Mr. Kagak just stated as an example,
9 ever since utilizing Prudhoe Bay, as an example. When that
10 area was opened for oil and gas, it was mentioned to the
11 villages that the job opportunity is going to be there
12 available for each village and presently there's hardly anybody
13 working there. There's hardly any Natives that are working in
14 the village. If NPR-A, Alaska, is going to be opened for oil
15 and gas and EIS don't specifically indicate in writing exactly
16 what Mr. Englishoe had mentioned earlier about job
17 opportunities, it needs to be clearly mentioned and supported
18 by some other documents available to make sure that job
19 opportunities are available in that area.

20 And another thing is that the -- presently there's been
21 a lot of sick caribou being harvested. They don't know where
22 this sickness comes and why the meat is infected from whatever.
23 If the industry would be allowed to have a possible, maybe some
24 type of a scientific research on that type of a species that
25 are affected by oil and gas. Something needs to happen because

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1 these are the livelihood of these people that Mr. Kagak had
2 stated. These things should be included in EIS, in accordance
3 with what I'm hearing.

4 (Inupiaq)

5 If there's nobody here that's willing to make comments,
6 I'm going to go ahead and refer back to BLM and would it be okay
7 to just close the meeting then? Where's Mr. Ritchie? I
8 thought you two mentioned earlier that I have to look on you
9 two and.....

10 MR. KUNZ: If there's no one who wishes to comment
11 further, then.....

12 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: I'm someone.

13 MR. KUNZ: Okay, Arnold.

14 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: I just would like to comment on
15 behalf of Atqasuk and they have been forward about getting
16 natural gas and, briefly, when we mentioned that there's not
17 going to be no activity, per se, immediately, but I don't want
18 that to be disregarded (sic) as not to address the natural gas
19 issue. The North Slope Borough has been empowered by Congress
20 to get into the natural gas rights between Atqasuk and Barrow,
21 and we have that capability if there is perhaps to NPR-A, in
22 fact, to get access to revenues and materials to get natural
23 gas to the village, either whether that be 50 miles from here,
24 whether it be right on the borderline of the Ikpiuk River. I
25 think that we need to remain open for these natural gas -- is

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1 critical for the survival and for heat compensation for
2 villages as long as it's within the villages between Nuiqsut,
3 Barrow and Atqasuk, for example. I just would like not that to
4 be closed off, but that to be in viable option sometime in the
5 foreseeable future.

6 (Inupiaq)

7 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Arnold. In accordance with
8 what Mr. Brower had stated, I've served 13 years within the
9 utility, as president of the utilities. And I've worked,
10 wholeheartedly, on the problem of natural gas from the
11 beginning. This started in 1964 up to the present, and in
12 accordance with the legislation that had been approved under
13 the use of natural gas within NPR-Alaska it's so stated in
14 there, in the law, that any village that is in proximity within
15 NPR-A, Alaska, naming what Mr. Brower had named, those
16 villages, are eligible to receive natural gas under that law.
17 That law had been passed some time ago. And I've known about
18 that from the beginning.

19 In fact, I went down to Washington, D.C. at one time
20 and did -- I wanted to give a lawsuit against the government,
21 they told me I can't, but me at the -- an Inupiat that don't
22 know nothing about laws, I could do that, so I said, I'm going
23 to file suit against the Navy, and I did. I wanted to, but
24 because I was able to proceed with that they had a wellhead
25 price that we were suppose to pay which the Navy had requested

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1 that it'll be escalated up from 50 cents per MCF to 76 cents
2 per MCF, stood at those, because the Navy and the Department of
3 the Interior went ahead and approved in Barrow, which never
4 been utilized yet, a residential cost that would be 33.4 cents
5 per MCF for the residents of Barrow. And the commercial cost
6 would be 65.6, I guess it is, to make 100 percent. I don't
7 know what the ratio is, but that's what the Interior had put on
8 that law. It's written, it's there, but Barrow is paying \$1.44
9 per MCF even up to now. I don't know why they never implement
10 it that, it was supposed to be implemented -- I left before I
11 did that and hoped that the director were supposed to implement
12 that but they never did. So the law is there available on your
13 behalf. I will state again if I have to.

14 For that reason since there's not anybody here that's
15 willing, I will close the hearing at 8:56 p.m.

16 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: I would object to that closure
17 right now.

18 MR. AHVAKANA: Why?

19 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: Well, we wanted to bring some
20 discussions.....

21 (Inupiaq)

22 I'm just making sure that -- Dee and Sally, all of
23 these people don't have a copy of this draft, and we have to
24 try to educate them as best as we can in these booklet forms.
25 And what we've encountered and we have to set right to them

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1 that these are some of the things that we are facing. What are
2 we going to do in the area of cabins? Is BLM restricting the
3 land? Are they calling us trespassers? These are some things
4 that we have to take into consideration and BLM is taking into
5 consideration for land rights, not just for people from here,
6 but from California, Florida, wherever they're from. They are
7 making policies for that land right for the United States, not
8 just Atqasuk and Barrow, but for everybody. What is our part
9 going to be in the process? You have to be mindful of this and
10 I think that the Mayor's comments are very strong, but we
11 haven't had this public workshop as much as we need to because
12 of the short duration of the EIS. We have not produced maps
13 that we can do a workshop with the public. They're laid out
14 back there.

15 (Inupiaq)

16 MAYOR NAGEAK: (Inupiaq)

17 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: Go ahead.

18 MAYOR NAGEAK: (Inupiaq)

19 I'm just reiterating some of the things that we met
20 about the cabins and some of the concerns I raised to you about
21 some of the hunting areas that we -- I used my brother and I as
22 an example. Although they're not on the map, they're not
23 pinpointed on the map, you can't tell when you go to our area
24 where we've hunted or set up camps or tents, you can't even
25 tell because we pick up after ourselves when we leave. You

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1 can't even tell we've been there, but a lot of people who know
2 when they travel says, oh, this is Nageak's or this is
3 Kanayurak's camping area, you know, people know where those
4 camping areas are, although they aren't indicated or you can't
5 even tell. So that was one of the concerns I raised to
6 Mr. Ritchie.

7 And also I stated that someday I'll get older and I
8 won't be able to tolerate the cold as much as I can right now.

9 MAYOR KIGNAK: You can't tolerate as much.

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You can't do it anyway.

11 MAYOR NAGEAK: I never could anyways, thank you,
12 cousin. But some day, you know, I might have the need for the
13 cabin and, you know, if there's a restriction I won't be able
14 to so, you know, those are some of the concerns that Arnold
15 raised and we hope that dialogue stuff continues on the use of
16 cabins and cabins already in place and cabins that may come,
17 you know, because of -- you never know what's going to happen.
18 Because we use those hunting areas and we're going to continue
19 to use those hunting areas.

20 MR. AHVAKANA: Now one of the questions that I had got
21 to me, I don't know, are we talking about this EIS or all of
22 NPR-A or are we talking just that only portion which covers on
23 this EIS?

24 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: The northeast portion.

25 MR. AHVAKANA: Huh?

1 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: The northeast quarter.

2 MR. AHVAKANA: That's what I said, that's what I meant.

3 Just that one little portion there, even though, that -- from

4 what I could gather, the problem is going to be that NPR-A,

5 Alaska, which is what, how many acres is that?

6 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: 4.6.

7 MR. AHVAKANA: Huh?

8 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: 4.5 million acres.

9 MR. AHVAKANA: No, the whole thing.

10 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: 22.6.

11 MS. WISELY: About 23.

12 MR. AHVAKANA: 22.3?

13 MR. RITCHIE: 23.1

14 MAYOR NAGEAK: Bingo.

15 MR. AHVAKANA: Is this going to be what these people

16 are saying, it's going to be true about not being able to use

17 that area that been used ever since, you know, we can remember?

18 As far as I'm concerned the whole state of Alaska is my land.

19 That's one reason why I never requested to have an allotment,

20 because the whole state, I use that for hunting. I go hunting

21 in Fairbanks without a license, but don't tell anybody. I'm

22 sure that these people have those concerns and I feel bad about

23 this if there's a misunderstanding of this things. But.....

24 (Inupiaq)

25 MR. KAGAK: (Inupiaq)

1 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)

2 MS. KAGAK: (Inupiaq)

3 MS. BURNELL: (Inupiaq)

4 MR. AHVAKANA: I think for those people that couldn't
5 understand Inupiaq, what's been talking, what we talked about
6 in Inupiaq is basically just reiterating everything that's been
7 done already and what you have done on those five alternatives
8 and what are permissible in those five alternatives that they
9 have. And the things that we iterated earlier about people
10 that have cabins within NPR-A, Alaska, and within the area that
11 the EIS had been written for and they say the amount of land
12 that would be available for those cabins. These things are
13 being spelled out in Inupiaq a lot more so that these people,
14 you know, within Atqasuk would be able to think through in
15 their minds and there's some question then, you know, what we
16 have stated is to allow the North Slope NPR-A Coordinator to
17 know so that these statements of thought could be incorporated,
18 so they would be able to use to allow them to incorporate this
19 to your thinkings. I think this is only fair.

20 MR. KAGAK: (Inupiaq) That's the big question on this.
21 What about our kids? Their kids? Why is the price on gas,
22 oil, so expensive to make our living hard? Can it be more
23 useful -- can it be useful to our people? Maybe our kids,
24 their kids can handle it better than what we can handle. Maybe
25 they can talk more and put the situation in proper way. They

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1 are hurting our birds, the caribou, even our own people. Why?
2 Because of drugs. Not only drugs. It's coming in, we know
3 that. You work for state of Alaska, Willie, we all live in
4 Alaska, let's be reasonable together, talk things over, you
5 know, work things together.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Luke. If there's not any
8 other comments then.....

9 MR. ITTA: (Inupiaq)

10 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you. Thomas Itta, Sr. was born
11 and raised in the vicinity of Teshekpuk Lake, Cape Halkett is
12 the place where he was born. Ever since he could remember he
13 used that area for subsistence hunting. And all those lakes
14 that are there visible, all of them, have fish in them. And he
15 also stated that all the rivers that are around Teshekpuk Lake
16 all flow into that lake and, therefore, they do have fish also.
17 That Teshekpuk Lake from the beginning that we could remember
18 that's been passed on by -- from generation to generation. Our
19 forefathers had stated that there's fish there that nobody
20 knows that exist in that lake.

21 And he also mentioned that historical camping sites are
22 all over within NPR-A, Alaska. Not only just in that area
23 where the EIS had been put together but all over, including
24 where Atqasuk is presently located and the rivers that are
25 flowing through there meet everything. There's sites that are

1 visible to presently yet that were utilized before by our
2 forefathers (sic). So he would like to see here that some type
3 of a conservation wording that could conserve these areas would
4 be visible, so that these would be retained by our great, great
5 grandsons and granddaughters.

6 I think this summarizes what Mr. Itta had stated. I'm
7 sure that it will be used by the North Slope Borough.

8 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: Nelson.

9 MR. AHVAKANA: Huh?

10 MR. A. BROWER, JR.: Just one comment relating to what
11 Tom said. Again, these maps are not indicative of the concerns
12 that we'd like point out because of those habitat -- this
13 habitat that use the small streams for byways are invisible,
14 the drainages are not there for -- to make his comments more
15 adequate, precise, because Thomas, like Nelson, was born in
16 Cape Halkett, his father has -- the family has a cabin at the
17 east end of Teshekpuk Lake and has a historical cabin by
18 Semiutak Bend. And then have a continual traditional use of
19 the area -- in that area and now has moved recently to Atkasuk.
20 He's -- like Tom Brower, Jr., Thomas is concern that these maps
21 do not have enough terrain or topographical features to testify
22 adequately where he'd like to pinpoint critical concerns for
23 fish habitats that he wanted to point out. Also to protect
24 subsistence rights in the area of -- open these areas for his
25 children and his grandchildren.


1 MAYOR NAGEAK: (Inupiaq)
2 MS. BURNELL: (Inupiaq)
3 MR. AHVAKANA: Good, let's stay another hour.
4 MS. BURNELL: (Inupiaq)
5 MR. AHVAKANA: Okay, at this time I will close this
6 hearing. Hearing closed. No more comments, I'm going anyway.
7 (Off record - 9:36 p.m.)
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, and Reporter for Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

That the hearing was transcribed by myself to the best of my knowledge and ability:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my seal this 17th day of January, 1998.



 Joseph P. Kolasinski
 Notary Public in and for Alaska
 My Commission Expires: 4/17/00

Translations
Selected
Testimonies

Atqasuk

Page 5, line 2:

Nelson Ahvakana: At this time I am going to open the floor to you all this meeting. Once it starts, anyone wishing to talk can do so. A person wishing to talk first needs to fill out this form here by putting your name and where you are from, etc. We are going to be conducting this meeting in english and Ioupiak eskimo. You are all welcome to talk but you need to first fill out this form provided here prior to talking.

The BLM employees who are here started their job way back and the project is called EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). The area north of Tasiqpak where NPRA is located is the reason why they want to get information from you in their draft. They outlined five alternatives for you people to choose from. And they will be selecting one of the five. So they are asking for your input because you are the people who have knowledge of this land up here. There are two laws that I will tell you about. The first one is what we call ANILCA, (National Environmental Policy Act) and the other one is what is called NEPA. They are Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act. They are what give BLM the power and authority to do this. They have power to get what they want from people or to gain control over lands. The reason for their trip here is their desire to open up NPRA. If any of you know of traditional hunting grounds, indicate them when you come to talk. If it is talks about the caribou's calving grounds, or where the birds nest, they will want to know where they are located, etc.

What they have also done is put this EIS on the internet and the date they had it put in was November 24th. Materials are available for you to get. They will be traveling to the following villages: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Wainwright. Their trips also include Anchorage and Fairbanks. The meetings they have in these places are going to be used when they finally go to Washington D.C. and San Francisco, California. Their work actually began on December 12th, 1997 gathering information to help in the draft EIS. This is going to continue until February 10th, 1998. You have an option of sending materials if you choose via the internet. Everything that is said at these hearings are going to be compiled and examined before finally coming up with the final Environmental Impact Statement, called EIS, for short. They have until June, 1998, to complete this.

Let me tell you how we're going to proceed with these hearings. Once you have filled out the forms, I will call the next person in line to come and talk. When you come and talk, introduce yourself by your name and indicate which organization you may belong to if that is the case. Then give your speech, whatever it is that you feel a need to talk about. If you have written your speech, you will have to give it to the court reporter and let him know that you are doing so. That way he will be aware of what is going on. He is sitting next to me as I am talking. For the residents of the North Slope who have always resided up here, there is no time limit to your speeches or reports but there is to those who are from the Outside,

those who are not local residents. Some will have five minutes, or ten minutes. They cannot go over fifteen minutes. I will put a stop to it if we happen to have a situation like the one I just spoke of. I and the BLM are here to listen to you all. We are not here to answer your questions. I will not ask you to have questions to ask. But I will ask of you to listen to the one talking, keeping quiet, until he/she is finished talking. I am going to start with the ones I have with me now. Before we begin, though, for those who do not understand Iñupiaq, I will read it out loud in English. We used to do it first in English and then in Iñupiaq but I am doing it a little different this evening because I am an Iñupiaq Eskimo. I'm doing it first in Iñupiaq and then I will follow up with the translation in English.

Page 9, line 8:

Mayor Ben Nageak: Thank you cousin. Thank you.

Page 9, line 9 (The whole thing on this line should not be there. What was said was actually Mayor Ben Nageak saying "Thank you in Iñupiaq" .)

Page 17, line 14:

Arnold Brower Jr.: The previous time that I was here, I conveyed to you by translating for Dee and the Mayor's speeches and this was on what Atqasuk was going to be possibly facing or to hear what your concerns were as well as your interests pertaining to your village should it turn out that the oil companies would be coming affecting your village. We wanted to hear what your concerns were about with respect to that and what were the things that you would approve of. You spoke out and mentioned natural gas and we brought it up. So it has been written down. There are changes from the previous time that a meeting was held that include, for example, people being given right-of-ways who want to use the areas belonging to us who are there strictly for recreational activities like rafting. It has already been put in the rules and regulations to reflect that in our Colville and Utokok rivers. The way it is written is that they would be given right-of-way within the first half a mile upon entering the river. The question is do we Iñupiat people, who subsist off of our land, require right-of-ways? There is no wording like that to be found there. Nothing like what are we supposed to do with those who hunt game for subsistence reasons. We need right-of-ways at all times if they decide to take a hold of certain parts of the land in which we subsist off of. We do not want to face being prevented to enter certain parts of land at any time. We do not want to see hunting season having deadlines up here where we live. I've told you a little bit about that at this time. When we first set out the previous time, that was the foremost topic that was brought up as a big concern. The other one being about wild and scenic which did not need to be changed at all. There is a rule reflecting that also. But the oil companies would be

able to do whatever they want once they have access to a particular land that they are after. These and others are included in their draft EIS as being talked about but not doing anything to do what they say they would do are what you will still find. The Mayor advised them not to but they are still in there as though they had never been advised. We all need to understand that fully and thoroughly. I was not happy to hear this. For those of you who hunt up there and happen to go slightly within their boundary, Nelson knows what this is like because he experienced it when he caught a musk-ox, what happened is that the musk-ox cost him financially fighting through the courts. Will you be experiencing the same thing by entering their property just slightly unintentionally? We will probably be experiencing that yet. That is the reason why we urge you to speak up against it. Some of our land when the oil companies were told not to touch it, knowing that what was indicated on the maps owned by the village corporations giving them the right to do as they wanted and that it was unlawful for anyone to construct anything, like oil companies, is what is in Alternative A. I bring this out because from the way I see it, there is something wrong with the way it is written.

Page 18, line 7: Arnold Brower Jr.: You people can say what you want and also ask questions. We will try to answer any questions that you might have with respect to what their promises stated. If you have any concerns that you have not brought up, this is the time to do it. But the Mayor statement is correct. They haven't yet indicated how they are going to proceed. Things would be much better if they had come here with a clear plan as to how they were going to proceed and we would be more clear in our answers.

Page 18, line 9:

Arnold Brower Jr.: The floor is open to anyone and you need not write your name nor give it before you talk. You are welcome to talk about anything that concerns you.

Page 18, line 10:

Luke Kagak: About the native allotments that were discussed previously, I wonder what the status is on them? Some of them are uncertain about the status of them. These are people who have inherited allotments from their parents who aren't sure what is going on with the applications. Who do we contact to find out what the status is on them?

Page 19, line 14:

Luke Kagak: If there is a question mark on their native allotment, if there is anyone in the audience who has one, let them know wherever it may be located because you can run into problems once applications have begun later on if all pertinent information is not relayed to them at the right

time. There have been some people who have expressed that they did not know the status of their native allotments and they are urged to go forward with their information to make sure they go through alright. I'm talking on behalf of Atqasuk.

Page 21, line 4:

Nelson Ahvakana: Is that understandable?

Page 21, line 5:

Luke Kagak: Yes.

Page 21, line 6:

Nelson Ahvakana: Those people who owned allotments that are now deceased so that their next of kin would inherit their native allotments, they are still working on the incomplete ones. BLM cannot do anything to take them. The allotment of the deceased goes to the next of kin of that person and that is the way it works. In the case of more than one inheritor, they would be given percentages. If one party wants to sell his share, the others would have to accept his request to do so. Do you people have any more questions to ask at this time?

Page 21, line 7:

Luke Kagak: Yes. I have always felt funny about the time when they began drilling oil in Prudhoe Bay...

Page 21, line 8:

Nelson Ahvakana: Just a little while ago I said something and I believe you were here. We were only going to be talking about EIS at this particular meeting tonight. Talk only about what these people are here to discuss at tonight's meeting. What has already occurred some time back, these people cannot do anything to change it because it is not their job to do it. Even if you are expressing that you did not like what you were about to tell us here, it is out of the subject that we're here to talk about right now.

Page 21, line 9:

Luke Kagak: I was only going to use it as an example.

Page 21, line 10:

Nelson Ahvakana: Oh, go ahead if you were going to use it as an example.

Page 21, line 11:

Luke Kagak: When it opened up, there was talk that they would be employing natives. I've always thought of any catastrophe that were to occur, it would directly affect the game that we hunt where they would be killed off. If scientific studies were done to find out the possible damages to occur, that might be fine. We know what the outcome is going

to be if anything went wrong with the oil drilling. The caribou that we eat extend all the way to Pt. Hope. The caribou too that we caught this summer looked unusual, out of the ordinary. They appear to be sickly. You can tell there is something not right with them because it is obvious. Where is that starting from? Questions are being asked for obvious reasons now.

Page 22, line 4:

Nelson Ahvakana: Have you people nothing else to say or ask?

Page 24, line 21:

Arnold Brower Jr.: This is in reference to subsistence cabins. I will use an example. At this time we, in the Mayor's office, the Planning Department, have been trying to draft a booklet. We stated about what would happen to those who have cabins on land. Lately there have been some people being told that they were trespassing property when they were only going to their cabin somewhere inland. They are asking what is going to happen to their cabins? That's what we're talking about. Take, for example, these people have a cabin one mile, or a quarter mile from restricted property. Maybe some sort of a lease would take care of the matter or alleviate it somewhat. The surrounding area would be prohibited from hunting game though. Unless you, we, write specifically what we want them to know with our cabins, etc., they are going to write down what they want to. What do you people want them to state in the documents? When I have gone to Ikpikpak, I only stayed there to camp overnight sheltered from the wind. In the summer you can make dried fish there though from the fish that you have caught using a net. But in the winter months they were only good for camping overnight due to the unavailability of game in that area for many miles. That is the hardest part of the job that we are undertaking now. They aren't sure what is going to be done about those who have cabins within the NPRA boundary but do not own their own native allotments. That is everywhere, north, south, east, west of the NPRA boundary. Are there going to be restrictions put on them or will NPRA be unable to share with the local people who own cabins inland. We need to help each other because we love to go camping. Will it come to where we won't be able to utilize our cabins inland in the end? That is what these people are gathering so that when they come up with the final material, it will at least include the voices of the people up here. You are not naive. We have today people who aren't local that come on a regular basis via airplane with their kayaks and enter traditional hunting grounds of the people of the North Slope, sometimes, disturbing those who are subsisting. We really do not want to see that up here. We're trying to do something about it. So it will be good to get comments from each village that we are going to so at least they can be documented.

To use this place on the map as an example, they're saying that this is

how far you can go. We have not even talked about that yet. How far do you people go when you are out hunting? Do you go as far as Kiali? Do you go as far as Kuukpigruaq? You have a time frame of which to give information such as these to them.

Page 25, line 16:

Mayor Nageak: Can I add to that? What Arnold Jr. was just talking about, we still call him Arnold Jr., we talked about it before when they're lead boss came to Barrow. Indications were made on the locations of the cabins and my brother had shown me as well as my other older brothers where they were. We do not have cabins but we do go hunting and there are many places where we go. We indicated where they were located on the map. As it is in the villages, it is difficult to see where personal cabins are and who they belong to because they have not been reported and indicated on the map. There are many of them and we local people are aware that they exist. There are places that we go to fish and hunt that have no cabins but were places where we normally pitched up our tents and that is what I am talking about. I told them that there was not way in situations like that, restrictions should be imposed on our traditional hunting grounds in the villages. You can't tell where certain people camp year after year but the local people know who usually camps where although they aren't indicated on the maps. We still utilize them to this day. I say this too that I am getting older in my years. I will use my father to explain what I mean. When he became old, we built him a cabin because he was no longer to camp by pitching a tent. If I am that old, I will not be able to tolerate the cold as much. That is what we wanted to convey to the local people.

Page 27, line 24:

Nelson Ahvakana: If you people understand it all, they are not talking about this area here. It is this area that is indicated on the map that EIS is referring to. That is what we were going to talk about. The area of Teshikpak all the way to Colville River is what they're referring to. It's been indicated on the map. It extends all the way to the end of the Colville River. I think when we go to Nuiqsut the day after tomorrow, they're probably going to hit us over the head because they are the ones who live within that boundary more than any other village. You have been impacted too and your traditional grounds are no doubt there. Let us make use of the North Slope Borough to fight on our behalf as it may be the best way to go in dealing with it.

Page 27, line 25:
(?inaudible).

Page 28, line 1:

Nelson Ahvakana: Yes. I was thinking about it too. When BLM was first

settling property and indicating where they were to be, what they did was put up a buffer zone. Why don't they do that to include all the rivers? So that they can be accessible for hunting. Not just for the fish. Even it is five hundred feet because it is pretty far from the river. It would be good to see something like that and that is something that you people should think about more thoroughly.

Page 28, line 2:

Female speaker: Not just the rivers but have the big lakes.

Page 28, line 3:

Nelson Ahvakana: Yes, all of them.

Page 28, line 3:

Karen Burnell: The people of Atqasuk and the City office as well as other places received a letter asking those who hunt to come and look at this map. They created five maps and put them on display. They've also put maps over there. The first one, labeled Alternative A is to keep it the way it is without changing it and that is what you people would select. The other one is a vote to select a portion of it to drilling, the other one being to allow half of that area for drilling. They want us to choose one of these. We at the North Slope Borough have not made a selection yet. When you select, some of the wording on them are not acceptable although on the map it looks like it could be the one to choose. There are certain rules that apply each one of them. Some of them state that hunting would be restricted close to the rivers. So you need to look at the way they are worded in the alternatives that are being presented to you all whether they would be something that would be acceptable to select. If you are not going to say anything tonight, call us at the Borough offices. You can call Arnold Brower Jr. or myself and we can pass on the information you give us. Teshikpak is a prime hunting area that spills out into the other rivers and it is our opinion not to have it be accessible to oil drilling whatsoever. We don't even want them to get close to it, if at all possible. They would like to do the oil drilling on this far side of it and extract the oil from below. So we do not want to give them permission to go ahead especially at Teshikpak until the pros and cons are discussed at length. We would like for you people to keep those in mind and if you choose, call us and give us your recommendations and we will send them to BLM from there.

For those who have cabins or traditional camping sites, the wording that is in these documents is that we can utilize them if we can give them access to a quarter of a mile in the area surrounding it. I don't think a quarter of a mile is much. Who is going to mind seeing a structure a quarter of a mile from their cabin or camping area? Not too long ago Arnold made us laugh when he told the audience that he personally did

not want to see a structure so close to his cabin especially when he had to go use the restroom because they would see him. Think about those but I think a quarter of a mile is too close to be situated to a cabin or a camping area. If you want the distance to be further than that, state it after giving it some thought because you will have to clearly define your requests with respect to oil drilling and your traditional hunting and camping sites.

Another thing too Arnold is a request that was made dealing with their request to see that the area of Umiat is cleaned up by the oil companies that got damaged before going forward with this document. I think that person who said that has since left the meeting but he said that when he went to Endicott, debris could still be seen on the ground that the oil companies left. Next two sentences are inaudible. So these are matters that should be dealt with before we go on from here. I just wanted to give you something else for you to think about. Thank you.

Page 28, line 20:

Luke Kagak: I just want to say one last thing. Ever since I grew up I have seen the white man be in charge of our lives and they are continuing to this day. To the BLM people and the North Slope, the big question is this.

Page 29, line 9: (Note: Mr. Itta's speech is not complete due to a lot of static interference plus noise coming from people conversing, etc.-unable to make out his words.)

Thomas Itta Sr.: I was not pleased with it too. That is the Teshikpak area. Cape Halkett is where I was born. That was where I became aware of my surroundings. I hunted around that area below it. There are small lakes there that all have fish living in them. There are a lot more that have not been indicated where the small rivers spill out to. They all have fish in them. There are more than what have been shown though. Included are the small rivers and the areas that they spill off into around that whole area. (Next few sentences after are inaudible.) Teshikpak also has various types of fish you can find in it as well.

I'm informing about that since we were told to talk about what we have knowledge of. In our land up here, what they refer to as NPRA, our forefathers utilized sites that can be seen.

Page 31, line 1:

Mayor Nageak: We've just heard that the airplane is getting close to Atqasuk.

Karen Burnell: The airplane has already arrived. We've just found out that it is going to leave us if we do not leave now.

Line 4: Karen Burnell cont'd: But we will be returning to Atqasuk.